

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of)
Ronnie Cain Rogers,)
Certificate 238836)
_____)

**ORDER OF
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 19, 2016. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Ronnie Cain Rogers, certificate 238836, as a result of his arrest on May 17, 2016, in Marion, South Carolina. Mr. Rogers was charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree and attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-03-655(C) (2006). The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Rogers may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Rogers' educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Rogers of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Rogers holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has nine years of teaching experience. Mr. Rogers has been employed by the Marion County School District Ten (District) since 2008. He was employed as a music teacher at Easterling Primary School and Marion Intermediate School (Schools). Mr. Rogers resigned on or about May 17, 2016, following allegations that he had engaged in inappropriate conduct with an eight year old minor female student after school hours.

Mr. Rogers was arrested on May 17, 2016, in the city of Marion, South Carolina, and charged with one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree and attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §16-03-655(C) (2006). It is alleged that Mr. Rogers engaged in inappropriate behavior with an eight year old minor student after school hours. The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Rogers may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Rogers' educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Rogers of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Rogers' unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which employed and his arrest on the felony charge of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree and attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree, there is reason to believe that Mr. Rogers may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Ronnie Cain Rogers, certificate 238836, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter

Ronnie Cain Rogers, Certificate 238836
Order of Summary Suspension
May 20, 2016
Page 3

is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Rogers of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: _____

Michael R. Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 20, 2016